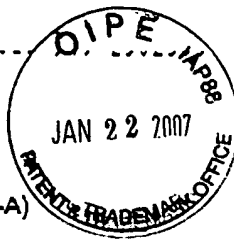


Application No. 10/614,546  
Art Unit 3728  
Declaration of Long-Felt Need  
Attorney Docket No. CCT1.PAT.01 (formerly 6228-A)



Patent Application

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Rowe et al.

Examiner: Fidei, David

Patent Application No.: 10/614,546

Art Group: 3728

Date Filed: July 3, 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
PACKAGING ELONGATE  
SURGICAL DEVICES

DECLARATION OF LONG-FELT NEED

1. My name is Christopher Slaughter.

2. I am the Sr. Engineer (R&D) (title) of

Edwards Lifesciences (name of company).

3. For a long time now, and at least as early as 2003 (year), there has been a long-felt need in the medical device industry for a coiled dispenser package without clips.

4. The problems associated with prior art coiled packages having clips include difficulty in manufacturing (i.e. we have to place clips to ensure correct dimensions); fatigue of clips (clips can fall off during transport); handling difficulty (i.e. clips can snag gloves during assembly or with physician); bulkier, more material (cost, weight, refuse).

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5. The clipless coiled medical packages offered by Clean Cut Technologies, LLC satisfy the long-felt need in the medical industry by providing a package for elongate medical and surgical devices with coiled tubes which are thermally bonded together. The curved thermal welds between the coiled portions cause the coiled portions to be fixed together in a non-peelable relationship without use of additional adhesive materials and without need for clips.

The undersigned, being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any resulting registration, declares that the facts set forth in this declaration are true; all statements made of his own knowledge are true; and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Date:

Jan. 15, 2007Name: Christopher SlaughterC. SlaughterTitle: Sr. EngineerCompany: Edwards Lifesciences